

Volume II, No. 9

Sacramento, California

September, 1982

RAMBLER



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EDITORIAL

It has been my pleasure to be issue editor this month.

Community begins at home. There are many gay people out there who are trying to make us a "community." However, can we have a community if we are not a community within ourselves?

I feel that it is time for the gay people of Sacramento to take stock of themselves as individuals. There are two one-day conferences coming up October 16 and October 23 dealing with positive images for gay men and lesbians.

Support the conferences; you might just learn something about yourself, others, and our lifestyle. The opportunity is there for you. All you have to do is take advantage of it. So don't wait, register now for the conferences scheduled for October 16 and October 23. Look for information in this magazine.

A thought to keep in mind: it might just be extremely advantageous for you to register for both, no matter what sex you are. It is just possible that we can learn to understand the opposite side of the fence as well as learning something about our own.

By improving ourselves and understanding others we can perhaps improve the quality of our community.

Shawn Scanlin

EDITOR'S NOTE: I would like to thank Elizabeth Harrision for the article on "Violence Against Gay Men." An absolute must to read.

* * *

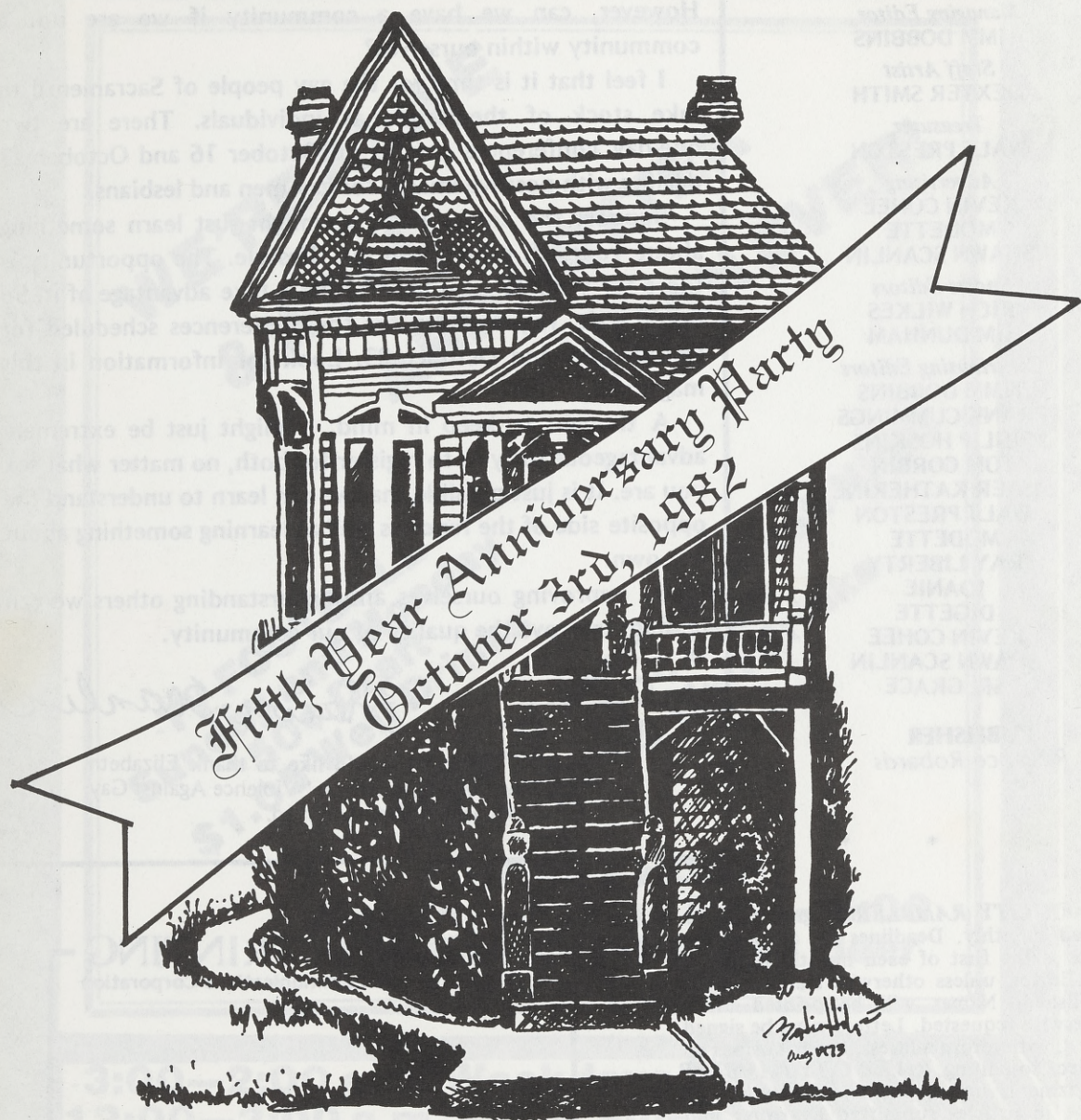
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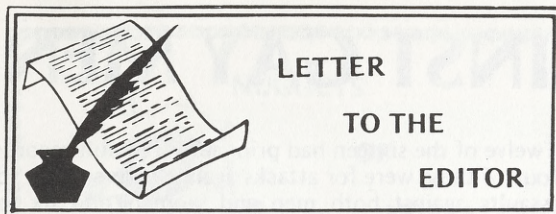
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR:

I am amazed at the turnabout in attitude from the staff at the Wreck Room from the time of their interview with the Rambler to the last few times I've been to the bar.

In their interview, they projected the image that they wanted their customers to "feel at home" - "let their hair down" and "be comfortable in the bar," etc. Now they are coming on like the Gestapo. It's odd that in their almost two years of business they cared very little about "action" on the patio late at night. Suddenly they've taken on a role not unlike that of the Moral Majority; THIS is acceptable, THIS is not!

I really don't believe their "cops" alibi either; it's not an election year for the Sacramento Chief of Police . . . just who do they fear peering over the high walls from vacant buildings?

I for one would like an explanation of this change in attitude. I really don't want to quit patronizing a bar that's done so much for our community, but if their "family" and "accept everyone as they are" lines are bullshit, then I will take my money elsewhere.

I used to consider the Wreck Room as "my bar," but now I'll think twice about going in again.

Sorry, guys,

— Timm Dobbins

* * *

EDITOR:

An interesting item appeared in the Sacramento Bee recently. It related how the computer of ultra conservative Senator H. L. Richardson had difficulty in identifying what type of business the Adolph Coors Co. was in.

The computer needed this information because the Adolph Coors Co. had made a contribution to Senator Richardson's right wing front organization, the Free Market Political Action Committee.

Homophobic Senator John Doolittle is a protege of H. L. Richardson, who was Doolittle's largest financial backer in the 1980 election in which Doolittle defeated Dean of the Senate Al Rodda.

It is this very same Senator John Doolittle who in the past has said "There is no Gay Pride, only shame . . . I'm one who believes Gays and Lesbians don't belong in state service."

Gay people buy Coors Beer. Coors Beer gives money to Richardson. Richardson gives money to Doolittle. Doolittle gives Gays the Shaft.

The whole Coors connection to the Reagan administration via the American Heritage Foundation and other right wing Moral Majority homophobic groups is too big for us to overlook.

It is time once and for all for all Gay people to stop buying Coors Beer. It makes absolutely no sense for us to give our money to a company which in turn gives it to our enemies.

Gaycott Coors Beer!

— Jerry Sloan

* * *

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VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY MEN

by Elizabeth Harrison, M.D.

Definition of Violence Against Gay Men:

Two forms of violent attack will be included: first, sexual assault of adult gay men or men perceived to be gay by their attackers; and second, non-sexual violent assault specifically directed at adult men who perceived to be gay (i.e., gayness is the target).

I will not be including attacks against men under 16, and I will be excluding attacks on gay men and men perceived to be gay that take place in jails and prisons, or when gays are in the custody of police.

In Sacramento I received 12 reports of gay bashings or sexual assaults on gay men in the last year. These reports were received either directly from the victim over the phone or in writing or were related to me by a friend of the victim. The reports were in response to an announcement placed in Mom Guess What. It is presumed there are many attacks that I didn't hear about. Of these assaults, six were known to have been reported.

In the 12 Sacramento cases, all were in the downtown area. Eleven were within five blocks of a gay bar; nine of these were outside and one was in a car. The other took place in a home.

In summary, gay bashings and sexual assaults tend to occur on "gay turf."

WHO DOES IT?

In Sacramento, in eight cases the assailants were young men and there was more than one assailant. They were all strangers. There are a number of different reports from San Francisco; CUAV indicates that four out of five gay bashers are teenagers, and that 98% of the bashers are male. They were from all ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups.

In an article written for the Advocate by Willen-basher, he indicates he interviewed fourteen sexual assault victims. Six reported their attackers were people the victims had seen or talked to, and one was an ex-lover. Three victims were hustlers who were attacked by clients.

One of the few studies of men convicted of sexually assaulting other men (in Connecticut) showed that of 16 rapists, 12 selected total strangers, 3 selected casual acquaintances, and one a relative. Twelve acted alone and 4 had co-defendants. Fifty percent of the rapists were married and exclusively heterosexual, 38% engaged in consensual sex with both men and women, and only two of the men confined their consensual sexual activities to men.

Twelve of the sixteen had prior sexual assault records; four of these were for attacks against women, two for assaults against both men and women, and six for assaults against men. Five of the twelve had records for sexually assaulting children. In summary, to half of the rapists, the sex of the victim was not significant; their victims tended to include males and females and adults and children. For the other half, males were their specific target.

WHAT DO THE ATTACKERS DO?

In the Sacramento reports, at least five of the 12 attacks were blitz attacks, were a group of more than one young man suddenly attacking a lone gay man late at night; the attack took place so rapidly the victims were not able to identify the attacker; in these cases there was much verbal abuse (faggot, queer, asshole), there was excessive violence, and a weapon was used.

VICTIM RESPONSE

The assault is experienced as an overwhelming disruption of the victim's life, and resulting disruption of functioning may last more than a year.

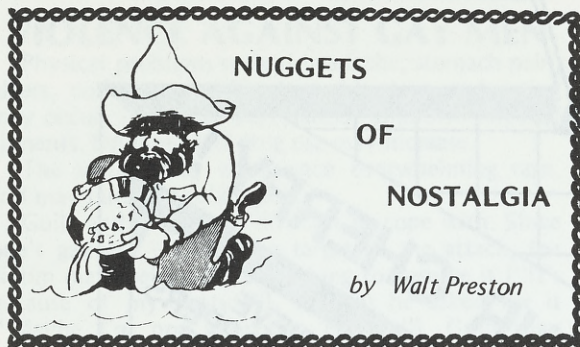
At first, victims may have trouble believing that the attack actually took place. They feel numb and in shock. Because of this, they may not seek needed medical and emotional support, which can be very damaging over time.

Victims become fearful and suspicious; the world is seen as dangerous, and they fear they will be attacked again, or killed or mutilated. They have nightmares, and at times feel as if the whole thing is happening all over again. If they are reminded of the attack by something they see, hear, or remember, they experience overwhelming anxiety and a feeling of powerlessness. These emotional flashbacks may occur during a period of time when they thought they had recovered. They have difficulty trusting strangers, and sometimes men in general.

They may stop having sex, or stop enjoying it. Some remain celibate for over a year. Victims pull back emotionally from friends and lovers, and are unable to experience pleasure in close relationships. Often the victims in a relationship will find their relationship doesn't survive. Since friends may have difficulty understanding the impact of what happened, or haven't been told, they will be impatient, angry, or pull back.

Victims may experience periodic depressions that are so deep that they do not realize the depression is a result of the attack.

(Continued on Page 9)



NUGGETS OF NOSTALGIA

By Walt Preston

This issue of the River City Rambler is dedicated to the topic of Mental Health. So, I thought I would see if I could pan a few nostalgic nuggets from this field. Well, my dears, I found the Mother Lode — let's watch the psychoanalyst folks have fun with *that* statement. From the endless number of interesting and often juicy tidbits found in studying the historical angle of Mental Health, I have selected the following for your amusement, and hopefully your entertainment.

To borrow phraseology from the Rocky Horror Picture Show (which one may view at the Showcase Cinema at midnight on Saturdays, or at the Wreck Room on Festive Occasions):

*It was great when it all began
But it failed because their plan
Was based on the planets, not man.
Now the only thing to give us hope
Is the perfection in the use of dope.*

The earliest records of interest in the realm of the mind all began about 2775 B.C. in Sumeria. Those guys back then were really WILD! They all wore long beards, dresses and cod pieces. Anyone who knows their modern day descendants also knows those fellows have no need for cod pieces today. The Encyclopedia Britanica tells us that the men in Sumeria milked cows from the rear — so it must be true. The King in those days was a dude named Lugalraggizi (just try sayhing that with your mouth full). He gathered many scholars together in his court, and his capital was (are you folks at the Merc ready for this?), his capital was called "The City of Kish." Goode Olde King Lug's scholars figured out, by using methods known only to themselves, that the sun caused floods, the moon caused tides and the planets caused mental illness or health, as the case might be.

They invented the pseudo-science of astrology, which is still being reported in the press today. Well, the moon does cause tides, so one out of three isn't too bad.

Well, three millennia slipped past and folks kept their sanity by watching the planets and not being struck by the moon's rays. They called the moon "Luna" and if her rays touched someone, they were "Lunatics." Or, if you prefer, "Touched in the head." Then, along about 427 B.C., a guy named Plato stumbled onto the stage of history. No, sillies, I don't mean Mickey Mouse's dog. Plato (not Pluto) lived in Greece for 80 wonderful years (427–347 B.C.). He used to hang around with a few favored young men. Note: the words "chicken" and "chicken Hawk" did not become popular until the 1960s in San Francisco and Las Vegas. Well, Plato and his "younger men" used to sit around and study anatomy and physiology . . . Really! My Dears! They came to believe that the brain was the seat of memory and opinion. This was also the era when Hippocrates wrote an oath that doctors should not be concerned with payments for their services. Times do change.

The next milestone along the road to treatment for the mentally ill came in the 1100s. By this time in history, towns, cities and states were allowing the insane to roam the streets at will, placing the most ill into the newly evolved jails. This is the same system that Ron Reagan put into operation when he was Governor of our Fair State, when he closed the State Hospital System.

The first public hospital, which replaced the cruel system of jailing the mentally insane, opened in England in 1247. This was St. Mary of Bethlehem Hospital at Bishopgate, London. That name is as bad as "Lugalraggizi," so the English shortened Bethlehem to "Bedlam." For 429 years, the ideas of hospital care for those poor unfortunates grew and was refined. In 1676, King Charles II, who was one of our Gay brothers, guilt the first true Mental Hospital at Moorsgate.

(Continued on Page 27)

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(Continued from Page 6)

VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY MEN

Physical problems such as headache, stomach pain, ulcers, colitis, and difficulty with sleep and eating may occur. They may worry about unknown physical ailments. Drinking and drug use may increase.

The victim may experience overwhelming rage, and may fantasize retaliation.

Guilt and shame are difficult to cope with. Since one's gayness is often the target of the attack, the victim may feel he did something to deserve it ("It's because of my lifestyle"), or that he asked for it ("Maybe I'm not masculine enough"). Guilt may interfere with future enjoyment of sex or other gay people. They may feel ashamed they were not able to defend themselves better. They may be too embarrassed to tell other people what happened, or fear that their gayness will affect their credibility. If the attacker succeeded in getting the victim to ejaculate, the victim may be particularly confused.

Although it may take time to recover, victims do recover, and may even feel stronger than they did before the attack. In the meantime, it's pretty devastating. It is helpful to talk to someone else, and not keep feelings inside. Once feelings can be expressed, and the victim can accept his feelings about himself, the attack, and the attackers, he can put the experience to rest and once again feel in control of his life.

Victims of sexual and other violent attacks who do not talk about this experience have a slower and more painful recovery; it is much more difficult to sort out feelings when they are kept inside. In terms of gay victims this is of great concern if 66% of gay victims never tell another person about the attack.

If you have been attacked, the hardest part to talk about may be the gay directed verbal abuse. Sharing this with other gay people can help reduce self blame and mobilize healthy anger.

RESPONSE OF OTHERS

One of the major problems for male victims is the inability of other people to believe, or the unwillingness of other people to want to believe, that men can be violently attacked or raped. Others frequently don't understand how distraught the victim is or how long it takes to recover.

In an attempt to pretend that it cannot happen to them, other gays may be as bad as straight people in attributing the attack to the victim's appearance, behavior (being drunk, being out late at night, not being picky about tricks, being openly gay, etc.), or some other factor. They refuse to consider that given the right circumstances it could happen to anyone. They may pretend it's sexy, but there is nothing sexy about being afraid you might be killed or mutilated. If others can pretend the victim's behavior was bad,

or ostracize him, it's easier to pretend it can't happen to them. Other gay men may feel that a man should be able to protect himself and don't stop to think that the victim may have been outnumbered, out-sized, outweaponed, or too out of it to fight.

The gay person is often hesitant to report or pursue the problem legally or go to the emergency room, for fear that he won't be believed or that the assault will be attributed to his lifestyle. This may be the case. So far this year (as far as I've heard) the police have been adequate; not outstanding, but adequate. And our community gay doctors have been available for the medical problems.

In general, the issue of violent and sexual assaults on gay men has been ignored and underestimated, and the victims have generally been underserved by all people and institutions concerned.

RESOURCES FOR ASSAULT VICTIMS

For your immediate medical concerns, you may either call your personal physician or go to an emergency room. If you have been sexually assaulted, and indicate this to your physician or at the emergency room, you may be referred to the UCD-Sacramento Medical Center, where the emergency room staff are trained to do the medico-legal exam for sexual assault victims. Our local gay internists, Harvey Thompson and Sandy Pomerantz, have been right there for some of the local assault victims.

You may wish to call the Rape Crisis Center prior to going to an emergency room, and request that they meet you there. Rape crisis counselors are routinely called by the Sacramento Medical Center for all rape victims; if they forget, remind them. In our experience, having a rape crisis counselor with you in the emergency room with you keeps the doctors and nurses on their best behavior. Gay men particularly may be in need of advocacy; so far I haven't heard of any recent homophobic behavior in the Med Center ER, but it sure wouldn't hurt to have someone with you. Plus, you may need someone to talk to while you are waiting, and to be with you if/when you talk to the police. Counselors are used to going to the Emergency Room at 3:00 a.m., so don't hesitate to call and have them meet you there.

At the emergency room or with your doctor, be sure to tell them if you have been sexually assaulted, and where and how. Because of the infrequent exposure to this type of assault and because of difficulty believing or wanting to believe this can happen, doctors may not ask. If you have been sexually assaulted, don't shower or move your clothing as you may remove evidence needed for criminal prosecution.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

If you want to talk to a counselor about what happened, you can call the Rape Crisis Center and either talk on the phone or set up an appointment for individual counseling. If you would like to talk to a professional therapist, call my office and I will be glad to help you with a referral.

If you choose to report, or the police are called by the emergency room, I strongly recommend you have a friend or a rape crisis counselor with you for advocacy. If the district attorney's office feels it is possible to obtain a conviction in your case, and decides to go to trial, you are encouraged to involve a rape crisis counselor with your case and to go with you to see the lawyer or to court.

If you do not wish to report, but would like to file an anonymous report to give the police information on the assailants, anonymous report forms are available at the rape crisis center.

I have forms at my office specifically designed for gay men who have been violently or sexually assaulted. The same form is also available at the Mercantile; ask Anna, the bartender.

If you would like a copy of this report to go to the police, let me know; if you would prefer that it remain in my office, let me know. I will use it to look for patterns of attack in Sacramento and to watch for attackers that may be repeaters.

If you show financial need, and have significant financial loss in terms of time lost from work, doctor bills, therapy bills, etc., you may be eligible for the State of California Victim of Violent Acts Compensation. You will have had to report the incident to be eligible for this compensation. You can find out more about this compensation by calling the Rape Crisis Center, the police department, or the California State Victim of Violent Crimes Program.

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

There are a number of different possibilities of why gays are the victims of violent attacks. The reasons for sexual assault and gang gay-bashing may overlap, as may the crimes. I will first talk about motives that are more likely in one-on-one sexual assaults and violent attacks, then talk about the homophobic motives that may lie behind both individual and gang attacks.

First, there is the man who plies a potential partner with drugs or alcohol, then takes sexual advantage, despite verbal refusal, when the victim is too physically weak to fight him off. This may be a man who feels it is his right to have someone who does not want to have him, and who is not adequately concerned with the rights and safety of others.

A rape or assault may be planned for revenge or retaliation; for example, a rape by an ex-lover, or an acquaintance who feels he has been insulted.

Sexual assault may be a way of maintaining control or expressing power over another person. Many victims express a feeling of total powerlessness, and a fear if they don't do whatever their attacker(s) say, they will be killed. When rapists are interviewed, it is apparent that for some, this is just the feeling they want to induce in their victim. An example would be a rape at the baths, where one man is willing to trick, yet the other pulls a knife and rapes him.

There are some attackers who are sexual sadists; those for whom it is not enough to combine sex with pain, but who need to combine their sexual release with injury, maiming or killing.

There are also situations where the intent is sexual SM without the intent to hurt or injure, but the person involved lacks knowledge of what merely causes pain vs. injury, or is too loaded to know what he is doing. Lack of knowledge of what one is doing or being too loaded in an SM situation is irresponsible and potentially dangerous. It also may result in felony charges.

The attacker may be a man who hates other men in general or gay men in particular, and has a need to overpower or damage them.

A single attacker may have the same motives as the gay bashers, where the intent is to control, conquer, punish, or to control the sexual conflicts of the attackers.

When I was a teenager, the teenage boys used to talk about going down to Loring Park and "beating up a queer." When I asked them why they wanted to do that, they would say, "because it's fun," and if pressed further would say, "Because they make me sick." At other times guys talked about getting violent with gay men "because he propositioned me." If women murdered, beat, or assaulted with a weapon every man who propositioned us, we might come close to eradicating the heterosexual male population. Perhaps this would also solve the gay bashing problem.

There are a number of possible reasons for gay bashing in particular (again, these probably overlap with the reasons for one-on-one assault on gay men, and gay bashing may or may not include sexual assault). One reason for gay bashing may be that it is O.K. (after all, even the police do it). The courts and jurors understand and are benevolent when gays are killed by straight people; all the murderer has to say is: "He propositioned me" or "He smirked at me." Duane Lowe, Sheriff of Sacramento County, says gays make him sick.

(Continued on Page 18)

HELVETIA PARK

An Informal Discussion Between

The Rambler and Frank Holt of Broadway Ltd

I would like to clarify for my friends' sake who helped me for four years in the row with the preparations of Helvetia Park. I was the one who found this park and secured it for the four years in which we held a Fourth of July Party for the Sacramento community. I even have a law suit against the owners, because they did not keep their end of the oral contract to clean up the park before last year's event.

Last month I read an article in your magazine "The Wreck Room Family" and I want to state that the Wreck Room is one of my favorite bars, outside my own, of course. I thought it was terrible when it was stated that the Wreck Room Family was disappointed in the outcome of their Summerfest. Mind you, I'm not saying that the rest of the information about the "Family" was terrible; I enjoyed reading about my favorite bar. I'm only referring to the paragraph on Helvetia Park. As I stated before, I've held a function there for the past four years and every year we (my friends and I) were disappointed in the lack of support from the Sacramento community. I personally am not angry or upset about the comment that Helvetia Park has had a bad reputation in the past, but I owe it to my friends who have helped each year and worked equally hard on cleaning the park before each function.

I do understand how the staff of the Wreck Room felt after their Summerfest. I emphathize with them, because each year after the functions, my friends and I felt the same. It is sad to me that people who work hard to give Sacramento fun-filled enjoyable functions should have to feel this way only because Sacramentans do not support in-town functions. These people think nothing of spending literally hundreds of dollars on Reno Rodeo, San Francisco Parade, Castro Street Fair, or even on any given weekend in the City, but won't spend a small amount to support their own. I sincerely wish and hope that in time this will change and that Sacramentans can have good times together.

Editor's Note: Thank you, Frank, for helping us learn a lesson in journalism. The statement in question 'Although Helvetia Park has had a bad reputation in the past' was not meant against the people who had functions there in the past or will in the future, but rather that the community does not attend functions in the park.

RARA AVIS

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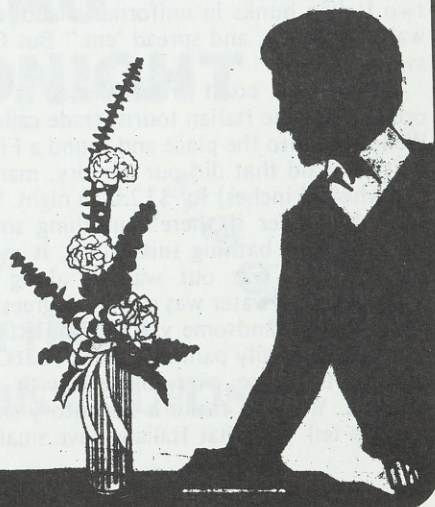
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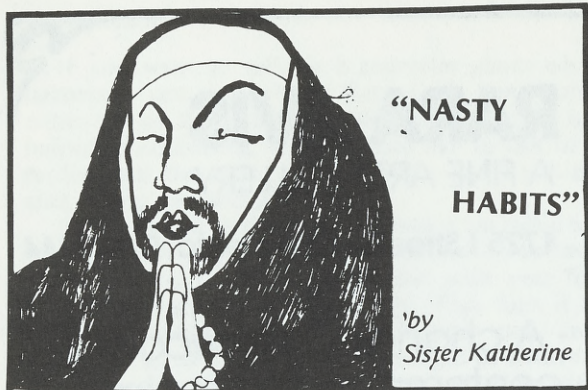
RARA AVIS A FINE ARTS GALLERY

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EUROPE — “A Nun on the Run” — Part III

Just over that strikingly smart set of mountains called the Alps lies a veritable wonderland for those who like their men (or women) dark-haired, fashionable, and hung (either top for women or further south for men).

From Munich we flew to Venice (and no, our arms didn't get tired). Venice, of course, is the city of canals; I immediately set out to find out how the streetwalkers plied their trade. I tell you, when the sun sets, it all begins to look like an Esther Williams movie; those aqua maids are everywhere. I was wandering around, minding my own business, when just as I stopped to straighten my liturgical pantyhose, a boy, looking no more than 14, approached me and asked if I would like to go to his house. Since I knew he didn't have instruction in the Catechism in mind, I asked him if he was old enough to vote for the leaders in government of his country. He said no, of course not. So I told him that if he couldn't decide who was going to screw him, then I would, and it wouldn't be me. I could just imagine myself getting arrested in Venice for corrupting the morals of a minor. The Police Boat would pull up and discharge two Italian hunks in uniform. “Hands up, against the wall, feet back, and spread 'em.” But Officer, I can's swim!

Down the coast from Venice is a resort area oriented to the Italian tourist trade called Cesenatico. We lucked into the place and found a First Class hotel (with a maid that did our laundry, marble floors and the whole 9 inches) for \$12.00 a night. We decided to stay! I wonder if there's anything smaller than an Italian man's bathing suit? If so, it must be microscopic ... I was out walking along the beach at midnight (the water was still 72 degrees) and chanced upon a very handsome young man sitting all alone in one of those gaily painted fishing boats. He motioned for me to come over and *sit* with him, or so I thought. Well, to make a long story short, never let anyone tell you that Italians have small dinghies ...

Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, was next. I've always admired St. Francis. He once preached a sermon to a vicious wolf, sending the animal away calm. I've always wondered what he could do with bill collectors if he were around today.

Our final stop in Italy was perhaps the most important: the Vatican, or what we Catholics call “Pop's Place.” I want to tell you about that place. There are statues, murals, and paintings for days! Listen, don't ever let anyone tell you Michaelangelo's wasn't a Fairy. Honey, I have never seen so much naked manflesh in my life, and that was just in the convent bedroom.

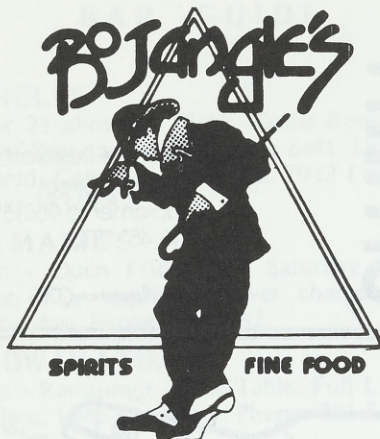
I counted 613 statues of Vestal Virgins alone. You know what a V.V. is, don't you? That's a girl who can run faster than her brothers. We all ate in the Main Dining Hall and it looked like they let Tony White loose in there with no limit on the decorating budget ... Honey, just silk banners to the Gods, silver and gold walls, nude statues, hunky Swiss Guards in tight pantyhose and short skirts, lots of throne chairs, more nude statues and one of the biggest crucifixes I've ever seen. The place looked like a cross between the Spaghetti Factory and a Busby Berkeley movie set.

And our sleeping arrangements were wonderful. There was a copy of Michaelangelo's David in the courtyard outside our bedroom window. I don't know if you realize that this statue is twice life-size. Almost 12 feet of hard, naked man! Do you know how big that makes his thing that sticks out in front? I decided to measure it one night, so I climbed out of our bedroom window and swung along the drainpipes until I could kick out to the trellis that makes a frame around the statue. So far, so good! I dropped down onto the head ... well, if you remember, Michaelangelo didn't finish the top of the head, he left it rough stone ... So, when I hit it, I tore my pantyhose and I let out a little scream. This obviously woke some of the other Sisters and I could see lights flicking on, so I decided I'd better get off fast, and the fastest way for me to get off was to go down.

I started down David's front and when my crotch hit his cold nose, I had to giggle, but I couldn't stop because I could hear the other Sisters coming. So I went a little further down and when I got to his crotch, it was like a ski jump and my ruler and me were airborne. I believe there's still a section of flowerbed with an impression of Sr. Katherine's backside in it.

At least I know Italy made an impression on me ...

* * *



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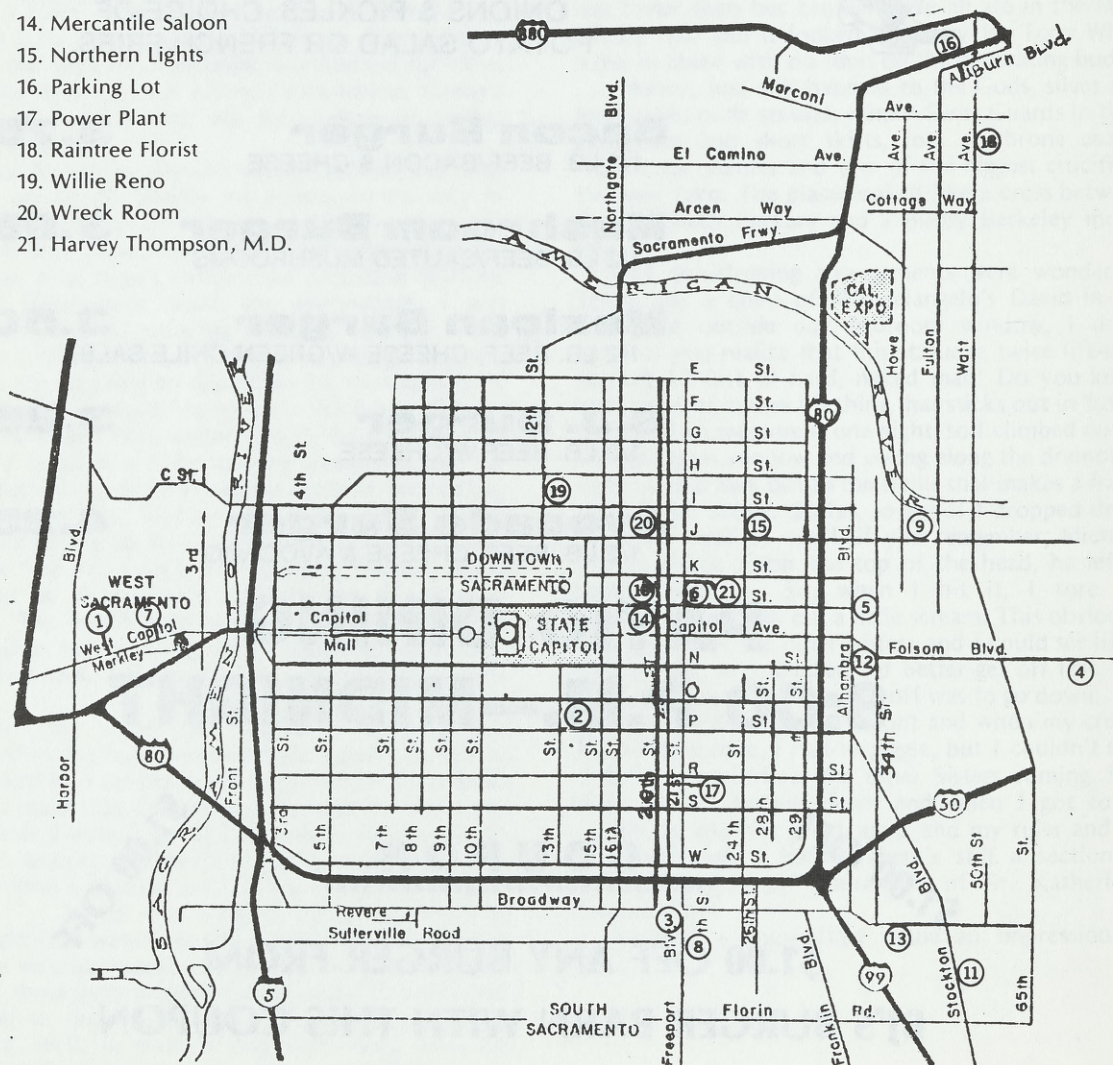
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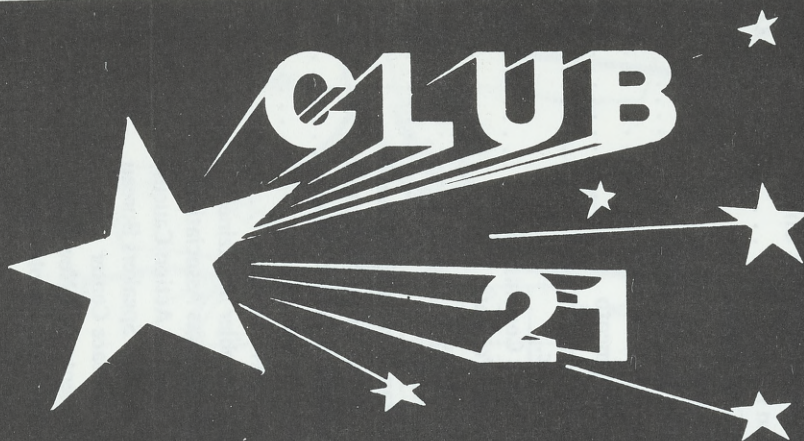
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WHO IS WHO AND WHAT

*Associations, Capitol City Contacts,
Organizations and River City Resources*

Alcoholics Anonymous	443-3138
American Civil Liberties Union	956-3339
Aquarian Effort	446-6467
Capitol City Squares	1-786-2708
CSI Convent	457-2247
CSUS Gay People's Union	454-6595
CSUS Women's Center	454-6817
Dignity/Sacramento	739-8353
Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc.	452-4026
Human Rights Commission	444-6903
Lady Garnet Presents	371-2474
Leather and Lace	441-7098
Man Two Man	391-9755
Metropolitan Community Church	454-4762
Mom ... Guess What! Newspaper	456-5858
Our Community United Center	444-9939
Our River City Family	485-7960
Patlar Gazette Newspaper	391-9755
River City Rambler Magazine	443-0562
River City Business Association	422-6541
SacPAC (Political Action Caucus)	457-7489
Sacramento Gay Speakers Bureau	452-0721
Sacramento Peace Center	446-0787
The Sacramento Star Newspaper	452-1476
UCD Lesbian/Gay People's Union	1-753-2090
Young Adult Rap	427-3945
Valley Knights Motorcycle Club	920-3429



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SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19 Brunch at the Incredible Edible MCC Services 11:00 454-4762 Wreck Room Pig Out & Movies, 3:00 "T" Dance at the Power Plant 5:00	20 Wreck Room Video 3:00 Our Community United Meets 444-9939 Young Adult Rap 427-3949 Rambler Deadline Club 21 Jackpot Drawing	21 Capitol City Squares at Parking Lot Ladies Night at Bojangles	22 Fetish Night at the Wreck Room Man Two Man meets 392-4128 Sacramento Star on Newsstands Human Rights Commission meets 444-6903 MCC Services 7:15	23 EQUINOX ORCF Volleyball 441-2475 Wreck Room T-Shirt Night Virgo Party at the Power Plant	24 Leather Night at the Wreck Room	25 Prime Rib Dinner Night at the Incredible Edible
26 Brunch at the Incredible Edible Gay Mental Health Professionals Meet 447-2282 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762 Wreck Room Pig-Out & Movies, 3:00	27 Young Adult Rap 427-3949 Club 21 Jackpot Drawing Wreck Room Video 2:00 p.m.	28 Capitol City Squares at Parking Lot Ladies Night at Bojangles	29 Wreck Room Fetish Night Man Two Man meets 392-4128 Sacramento Star on Newsstands MCC Services 7:15 454-4762	30 ORCF Volleyball 441-2475 Wreck Room T-Shirt Night	1 Mom Guess What! Newspaper on Newsstands — 456-5858 Gay People's Union Potluck — 381-8541 Leather Night at The Wreck Room Anna Marie's Open	2 River City Family Potluck — 391-1362 Prime Rib at Incredible Edible Anna Marie's Open Swimming at the Parking Lot

Wreck Room Pig-Out & Movies, 3:00			454-4762		The Wreck Room Anna Marie's Open	Parking Lot
3 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762 Brunch at Incredible Edible Pig-Out at Wreck Room 5:00, Movie 3:00 Beat the Clock 7:00 at Club 21 "T" Dance at Power Plant, 5:00	4 Young Adult Rap 427-3945 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTION, 457-1788 or 457-7489 Club 21 Jackpot Drawing	5 The Empire Holds Court, 739-8616 Capitol City Squares Meet at Parking Lot Ladies Night at Bojangles PATLAR Deadline	6 Sacramento STAR Deadline 442-8683 SacPAC meets 457-7489 MCC Services 7:15 454-4762 Man Two Man meets 392-4128 Gay Vote '82 Meets 457-1788	7 O.R.C.F. Volleyball 332-7126 Disco Dancing at the Power Plant	8 Leather Night at the Wreck Room Anna Marie's Open	9 SDA Kinship Potluck 455-8940 Prime Rib Night at Incredible Edible Anna Marie's Open Swimming at the Parking Lot
10 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762 Dignity Meets 3:00 739-8353 Brunch at Broadway Lt Pig-Out at Wreck Room 5:00, Movie 3:00 "T" Dance at Power Plant, 5:00 Beat the Clock at 21	11 Our River City Family Council Meets 485-7960 Young Adult Rap 427-3945 Club 21 Jackpot Drawing	12 Capitol City Squares meet at the Parking Lot Ladies Night at Bojangles	13 Sacramento STAR on Newsstands 442-MCC Services 7:15 454-4762 Man Two Man meets 392-4128 Town & Country Democratic Club meets, 961-8161 Bojangles Men's Night	14 O.R.C.F. Volleyball 332-7126 River City Business Association meets 8:00 p.m. at the Incredible Edible Disco Dancing at the Power Plant	15 Mom Guess What! Deadline 456-5858 Gay People's Union Potluck 381-8541 Leather Night at the Wreck Room Anna Marie's Open	16 River City Rambler on Newsstands Prime Rib Night at Incredible Edible Anna Marie's Open Swimming at the Parking Lot Gay Men's Conference Lesbian Forum
17 MCC Services 11:00 454-4762 Butte Co. Fellowship Meets 543-9773 Brunch at Broadway Lt Pig-Out at Wreck Room 5:00, Movie 3:00 "T" Dance at Power Plant, 5:00 Beat the Clock at 21	18 PatLar Gazette 391-9755 Our Community United Meets 444-9939 Young Adult Rap 427-3945 Club 21 Jackpot Drawing	19 Capitol City Squares meet at the Parking Lot Ladies Night at Bojangles	20 Sacramento STAR Deadline 442-8683 River City Rambler Deadline 457-2247 MCC Services 7:15 454-4762 Man Two Man meets 392-4128 Nat'l Organization for Women 443-3470	21 O.R.C.F. Volleyball 332-7126 Gay Freedom Week Committee meets 381-3115 Disco Dancing at the Power Plant	22 Leather Night at the Wreck Room Anna Marie's Open	23 Women Over 35 Potluck 371-3496 Prime Rib Night at Incredible Edible Anna Marie's Open Swimming at the Parking Lot
24 MCC Services 11:00 454-4765 Gay Mental Health Professionals Meet 447-2282 Brunch at Broadway Lt Pig-Out at Wreck Room 5:00, Movie 3:00 "T" Dance at Power Plant, 5:00	25 Young Adult Rap 427-3945 Club 21 Jackpot Drawing	26 The Imperial Family Meets 739-8616 Capitol City Squares meet at the Parking Lot Ladies Night at Bojangles	27 Sacramento STAR on Newsstands MCC Services 7:15 454-4762 Man Two Man meets 392-4218 Human Rights Commission 444-6903 Bojangle's Men's Night	28 O.R.C.F. Volleyball 332-7126 Disco Dancing at the Power Plant	29 Leather Night at the Wreck Room Anna Marie's Open	30 Prime Rib Night at Incredible Edible Anna Marie's Open Swimming at the Parking Lot
31 MCC Services 11:00 454-4765 Brunch at Broadway Lt Pig-Out at Wreck Room 5:00, Movie 3:00 "T" Dance at Power Plant, 5:00 p.m. Beat the Clock at Club 21, 7:00 pm	<div> <div>CLUB 21</div> <div> Congratulations on your First Year! </div> </div>					

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(Continued from Page 10)

There are no open gays in the police or sheriff's department so when gay prisoners are attacked by police or prisoners, there is no one to blow the whistle. Perhaps some people attack gays because their parents hated gays, and their grandparents hated gays. Hating gays may be as American as Mom and Apple Pie and the American Flag.

Perhaps the majority population always will try to oppress any minority.

Another reason gays may be easily scapegoated is our relative invisibility. When people are not knowingly familiar with any gay people, it is easier to imagine us as a stereotype or subhuman. A study on attitudes towards gays that was done during the No on 6 Campaign indicated that the more interactions heterosexuals had with people they knew were gay, the less prejudiced they were. Many heterosexuals have never knowingly met a gay person, and this is even more true for children and adolescents, who are rigorously protected from gay positive information by the schools, the church, the press, the courts, and their families.

Attackers may be uncomfortable with their own sexuality, and are experiencing some attraction to other men. Since they are homophobic, they hate in others what they cannot stand in themselves. Their own feelings of attraction to other men are so frightening to them that they attempt to destroy that part of themselves by trying to destroy it in others.

Men who aspire to be very macho often have an unconscious or conscious hatred of all that is female; since gay men are seen by them as not following the traditional male sex role, they may see them as like women, and try to punish them.

For the person who feels powerless in his own life, control, albeit temporary, over another person signifies some temporary control over his own life.

Bashing or rape can be a way for people who hate themselves, feel inadequate, are not sexually happy, feel powerless, and have unresolved sexual and sex role conflicts, to temporarily feel strong, sexually powerful, and in control; and to temporarily leave their victim with the attackers negative self feelings (victims usually feel powerless, out of control, self hating, and confused about their sex role and sexuality). This relief for the attacker is only temporary, and the attacker must either change, mature, or attack again to feel better about himself. The victim, however, will only temporarily experience these negative self feelings, and will eventually regain his self esteem.

Bashing may occur because some people are unable to tolerate the positive things we stand for. The fact that gay people are people who have been willing to stand up to society, laws, church, family, friends, and job by choosing to enjoy their sexuality indicated how powerful we are and the strength of our feelings.

To the person trying to conform to a narrowly defined notion of sexuality, who is unsure of his sexuality, or not experiencing enjoyable sex, we must be terrifying; requiring a tremendous force of violence in a futile attempt to control the power we stand for.

Another reason gays are bashed may be the certainty of our attackers that we will not fight back, and that no one will come to our rescue. Sometimes they are wrong.

FIGHTING BACK

In the words of Jacquelyn Hamilton, San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer (quoted in the Advocate, April, 1981): "Thirty years ago, young punks could go into a black neighborhood and yell 'nigger' all over the place, and nobody would resist. Punks don't do that anymore, because black people became militant and stood up for their rights. I'm not

saying that every time someone calls you queer you should go smash him in the face, but I think we have to ask ourselves where we want our community to be with regard to this problem ten years from now."

Actually, I believe we are beyond this in Sacramento; I know of no incident where gays stood by and quietly observed a gay bashing without doing anything, and on several occasions gay bashers underestimated their own need for strength and numbers and were bashed back.

Eleven out of twelve of the cases that were reported to me (and I am certain these twelve cases are only the tip of the iceberg) took place within five blocks of four downtown gay bars; in other words, they all took place on "gay turf." In a number of cases, the bashers assumed that gay turf was safe attacking ground, believed they could get away with harrasing or attacking gay people, and assumed no one would intervene; and have paid for it.

A knife wielding young man went for a very physically fit gay man right outside the door of a gay bar, and demanded his wallet. The gay man beat him up.

A young man about 17 years old was banging on the door of a gay bar and yelling, "faggot, cocksucker, queer," etc., etc. He was grabbed by the neck by a burly gay man who demanded the young man tell him where his mother lived; the man was so frightened he told the gay man where he lived, and the gay man started hauling him to his mother. Before the gay man got him there, the kid had propositioned him (the burly gay man was not interested in the least).

Two punks were beating a gay man in a lot near a gay bar; someone ran in the bar to tell others; a very refined gay gentleman ran out, broke up the fight so the battered gay man could escape, and then chased the two thugs; they did turn around and beat on him, but he put up a good fight, and once again showed the young thugs that they won't always get away with ganging up on one gay person.

Some bashers thought they could get away with attacking and harrasing some gay men in the parking lot of one of the gay bars. The gays came out of the bar, and ended up holding the would-be bashers down on the railroad tracks.

Two gay men were being attacked by two men on the sidewalk in front of a gay bar. A gay man drove up, shined his lights on the assailants, and scared them off.

Two large men were harrasing two short gay men who were walking between two gay bars. They were calling them the same old tired names (cocksucker, queer, faggot, etc.) and the largest man kicked one of the gay men in the ass. A gay woman saw this, and went into one of the gay bars and brought out about twenty gay men, who backed her as she went out and

challenged the larger man to take her on; he pulled a knife on her, but she kept daring him. Both attackers took off running; she ran after, kicked the larger one in the ass, and asked how he liked it.

Two gay men were walking into a store near the gay bars. A van full of teenagers stopped at a light, and were calling them faggots. One of the gay men stared directly at them and headed toward them. He told them that the only one who could call him faggot was himself, and if they wanted to try it again, to get out of the car. They took off as fast as they could.

In the past five years I have not seen a situation where a lesbian was being harrassed by a straight man or men, and where other lesbians have been present, where the other lesbians haven't gone to her assistance.

There are many situations where nothing will help; the gay man or men may be much smaller than their attackers, or outnumbered, or outweaponed, or too loaded to fight. And though they are on "gay turf" the attack may not be observed by other gay people, and there will be no one to come to their assistance. They will be hurt, and this may not be unpreventable. Gay bashers are bullies, and they try to select situations where they feel sure they will win. I know of no situations where a loaded straight without a weapon tried to jump a gay person who was his size and also loaded; that would be too fair.

There are some things we as community members can do. If there are other gay people around, and you have back up, don't let the attacker get away with verbal or physical abuse; no straight person should be allowed to come on our turf and call us faggots and get away with it when there are a number of us involved.

Take responsibility for your own safety; walk home with other people, or take a cab. If you sense a dangerous situation, even when you aren't sure, start running or yelling or trying to get away and/or get help.

We need to be responsible for each other's safety; if you are near the bars, and hear someone yelling, get some other people and go check it out. If you hear someone verbally abusing gay people, get some other people and silence them. If you know someone is going to be walking home downtown and is alone and/or loaded, offer them a ride, call them a cab, or get someone else and both of you walk him home. If he insists on refusing your help, and you see him as vulnerable to attack, follow him home.

If you see an attack in progress, and you are alone, you can yell, shine headlights, honk, get others, call the police, and watch and get identification. I'm not saying to commit suicide, but there is always something you can do, even if it's only waiting until the attack is over and then going to assist the victim.

(Continued on Page 27)

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GAY VOTE 1982

If you have not yet registered to vote, the deadline is October 4, 1982. Voting is not only a right, but an opportunity to become responsible for your rights.

Right now, Anti-Gay legislation (the Family Protection Act) is submitted before the United States Legislature. The entire gay community risks being crushed by the increasingly hostile political climate of the Moral Majority. We need to protect our "equal rights under the law."

Please take the time to register to vote so together we CAN make the difference. For information on registering, or to volunteer to help, call SacPAC at 457-7489.

The schedule listed is locations and dates GAY VOTE '82 registrations will take place:

SUNDAY, Sept. 19
Pig-Out, 5-9 pm
WRECK ROOM

MONDAY, Sept. 20
9-12 pm
CLUB 21
TUESDAY, Sept. 21
10-12 pm
BOJANGLES

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 22
10-12 pm
BOJANGLES

THURSDAY, Sept. 23
5-8 pm
MERCANTILE
10-12 pm
BROADWAY LTD

FRIDAY, Sept. 24
10-12 pm
THE POWER PLANT

SATURDAY, Sept. 25
Daytime
THE PARKING LOT
10-12 pm
ANNA MARIE'S

ROBBIE WATERS FOR SHERIFF

The larger committee directing the campaign in Sacramento's gay community to elect Sacramento City Police Lt. Robbie Waters as Sheriff of Sacramento County has designated a five member steering group to coordinate efforts and fundraising activities.

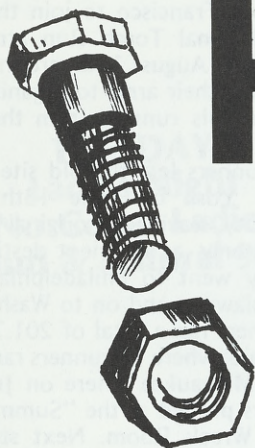
Two dates have been selected at a meeting held August 15 to choose the best methods of raising a sizeable contribution from the gay community. The first date is the 18th of September, the third Saturday of the month, when all bars catering to the gay community will collect a dollar per customer for the fund drive; the second date will be October 16th, the third Saturday of that month, when the drive will be repeated. A special presentation is planned to turn over the funds to the candidate.

A highly enthusiastic response has been received from all parts of the gay community to the fundraising plans and it is hoped that a good turnout and a generous contribution may be realized. The November run-off election is one of the most important local contests to be decided. All gay voters should make themselves aware of the stands taken by the two candidates, and their statements.

It is hoped that Lt. Waters will make further appearances at Sacramento's gay watering holes and recreational establishments to meet members of the gay community.

* * *

NUT and BOLT PARTY

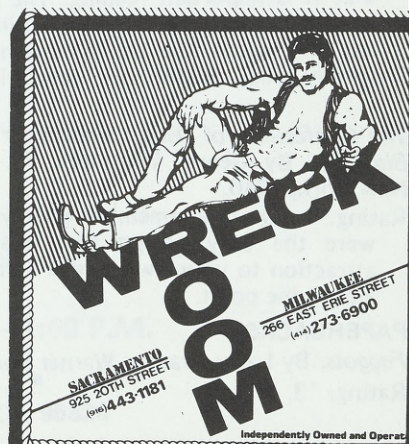


WED. OCT. 6

8:00 PM

Match your nuts with someone's bolt and
you both receive a drink.

**at the WRECK ROOM
OF COURSE !!**



BOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKS

By Rafael Q. Benitez-y-Rojas

I realize that starting a "recommended" books column during the latter part of the summer may strike you as exciting as booking passage in the Titanic's maiden voyage. However, I hope you will keep this column in mind during the coming months, when rain, if anything else, will prevent you from either worshipping the sun, or going to your favorite disco to twirl the night away.

This column is not a book review per se; it is more a recommendation as to what books (in my opinion) you may find fascinating, challenging, and a good friend to cuddle with before you go into dreamland.

Remember, not all these books can be found on the bestseller list; some of them are little treasures from the 30s, 40s, etc. I have separated books in two categories, Hardbacks and Paperbacks. And my rating system is as follows:

- 1 = El Pig-oo
- 2 = ZZZZZZ
- 3 = An interesting Book
- 4 = Reading a Must
- 5 = A Classic — a Must for your personal Library

HARDBACKS

Calamus - Male Homosexuality in Twentieth Century Literature. An International Anthology. Edited by David Galloway & Christian Sabisch. Quill Edition, New York 1982 - \$9.50.

Rating: +5. Perhaps the most important gay male anthology published to date. From Baldwin to Hemingway, and some very fascinating writers from every corner of the world.

The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals. By Frank Rector, Stein and Day, New York 1981.

Rating: +4. Even though the title of this book is very depressing, I gave it a high mark because I believe that it is important reading. The symptoms that lead to the extermination of gays in Nazi Germany are very much like the symptoms afflicting our society today. History *does* repeat itself.

The Confessions of Danny Slocum, or Gay Life in the Big City. By George Whitmore, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1980.

Rating: 4 - Do you remember when you thought you were the only person that was afflicted with attraction to your own gender? Hilarious, serious, and to the point.

PAPERBACKS

Faggots. By Larry Kramer, Warner Books, 1978.

Rating: '3.

City of Night. By John Rechy. Grove Press, New York, 1963.

Rating: +4

Miracle of the Rose. By Jean Genet. Grove Press, New York, 1951, 1965. English translation from French.

Rating: +5

* * *

NATIONAL TORCH RUN

By Kevin Cohee

On their way to San Francisco to join the 1982 "Gay Games," the National Torch Run arrived in Sacramento on Thursday, August 19th, around 3:45. The Parking Lot opened their arms to organizer Jon Roberson and three of his runners from the Reno area.

Jon and his five runners left the old site of the "Stonewall" in New York on June 13th. They traveled from city to city, leaving the original runners and picking up fresh ones at the next destination. From New York they went to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wilmington Delaware, and on to Washington, D.C., where eight runners ran a total of 201.7 miles. Then to Columbus, Ohio, where 10 runners ran 100.9 miles to Chicago, to Milwaukee where on July 4th Weekend some runners partied at the "Summerfest" held by Milwaukee's Wreck Room. Next stop was Minneapolis, where 18 runners ran over 578 miles to Des Moines, then to Omaha and on to Denver. At that point 26 runners had run 647 miles (what M.P.G.s!!) Moving on to Denver, Salt Lake City, and on to Reno, after 3,894 miles of the grand total of 4,021 miles, they arrived in Sacramento at the Parking Lot.

Saturday, August 21st, they left the Parking Lot with two Sacramentans onward to San Francisco for the Finale. Two previous Olympic athletes will be carrying the Torch into the 1982 Gay Games on Saturday, August 28th. At the time of this interview with Jon Roberson, over 160 people had run or cycled to bring the torch to Sacramento, and over 200 are expected to have participated by the time of the games' opening.

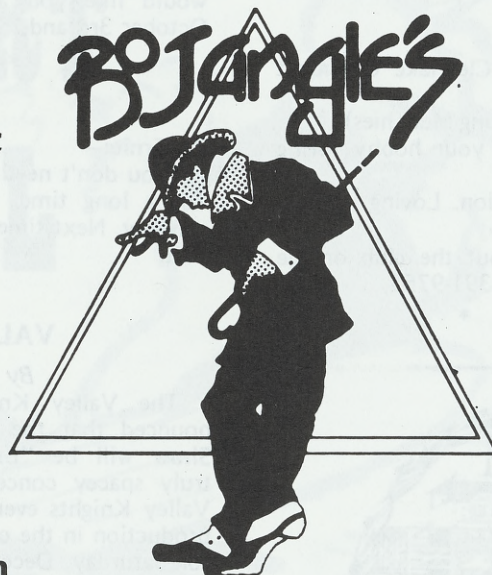
Jon has run over 45 miles himself and cycled over 500. Nicholas Wagner cycled over 211 miles for the greatest overall total, and Sita Long of Minneapolis cycled over 100 miles for the greatest total in one day.

The National Torch Run was funded by the G.O.G. Commission with a \$12,000 budget. Through sales of "I Bought a MILE" buttons and posters, as well as private donations, the torch-runners had only collected \$1,500 as of August 21. I certainly hope that everyone at the games purchased a button or poster to help these wonderful athletes.

* * *

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MAN TWO MAN

Man Two Man is a membership social club for men who want to meet other men with whom to establish same-gender relationships. The club provides a variety of activities designed to promote interaction among the participants.

The club provides men an additional way to meet and get to know men while sharing common-life experiences. In the recent past, members of the group and their guests have gone river rafting, gold panning, and glider flying. In addition, events which reflect member interests are periodically scheduled. The activities scheduled for September are shown below. Guests are encouraged to attend club functions and a donation is requested. Membership information is available upon request.

SEPTEMBER

18 - Saturday. Special Event: Clearlake Overnight Trip.

20 - Monday. Movies at Home (bring Munchies).

22 - Wednesday. Social: Share your hobby (bring example to demonstrate).

29 - Wednesday. Social: Discussion. Loving — what does it mean?

For additional information about the club or the scheduled activities, contact Jim, 391-9755.

* * *



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MERCANTILE'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Merc is going all out this year for their anniversary. The preparations are already underway and there is a spirit of celebration among the employees as well as owners and customers. The date: October 3rd, 1982, from 11:00 a.m. til— Anniversary buttons will be available in limited quantities and they will be printed with the well-known Mercantile House plus 5th Anniversary. A true collectors' item in time to come. During the celebration food and prizes will be there for your enjoyment. The real clincher is a **SURPRISE GRAND PRIZE**. Well worth going to the Merc, if only to find out what that will be. Ray and the Mercantile staff would like you all to mark your calendars for October 3rd and join them in this special celebration,

* * *

To Ernie:—

You don't need that dark suit anymore. I'm back for a long time. By the bye, I don't like black anyway. Next time, I want you to wear a **NEW PINK** suit.

— from El Bosso

VALLEY KNIGHTS

By Ryder B. Crystall

The Valley Knights Motorcycle Club has announced that the theme for this year's Christmas Show will be "Extra-Terrestrial Christmas." This truly spacey concept promises to put the annual Valley Knights event light years ahead of any other production in the community. The date has been set for Saturday, December 11, at the Turn Verein Hall in Sacramento.

Planning for the ever popular holiday affair started in July and the end result will reflect many hours of hard work by the members and the many friends of the club who each year contribute their time and energy.

This will be the sixth time the club has staged the show, which features a talent contest as well as professional acts. All area performers are welcome to submit applications in either category. Participants are invited, but not required, to develop acts in keeping with the theme of the evening.


As usual, the occasion will include an exciting raffle, many door prizes and a well-stocked bar. Because of the response to the quality of last Year's show, the Valley Knights expect word-of-mouth promotion to guarantee an enthusiastic capacity crowd this year.

* * *

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RIVER CITY NIGHTS

by Frank Cummings

Who am I and what are my credentials for critiquing the shows here in Sacramento?... these are questions I've heard a few people ask lately. Let me take a little space here at the beginning to try to answer these questions.

My first introduction to Gay Bars was a top-notch drag bar in my hometown (Norfolk, Virginia), where I performed male mime and dance and helped choreograph some of the larger shows. I attended elaborate drag shows from Virginia to Washington, D.C. for the next four years while I was studying theater and dance in college.

After college, I did the summer stock circuit for a while. I then traveled up and down the East Coast from New York to Florida, seeing numerous shows before heading to the big city — Hollywood, where shows run rampant. After spending four years there, I decided to settle in the quiet, southern looking city of Sacramento (of course, one very special man had a lot to do with that).

So, to summarize, conclude, etc., etc., I feel my education, training, performing and viewing the variety of shows in the variety of places I have, are my credentials for being the critic for the Rambler. Now, on with the shows!

I know there are a lot of talented people in the community who could keep me busier than two shows a month ... come on, kids, let's put a few more shows together.

The first show I attended (and regretfully had to leave early) was Jessie's Luau on August 14 at the Parking Lot. Michael, singing and accompanying himself on the guitar, was at his talented and usual best. The sound system was the only drawback in his performance.

Eddie, as Al Jolson, was right in there! I found him bubbly, lighthearted, and all-around fun entertainment. Jodi, Jodi, Jodi ... all I can say, hon, is that if your energy was channeled in the right direction, you could work with the best of them. One question, though ... who did (or should I say, didn't do) your hair?

Jeff, the stripper, music and dance wise, was better than the first time I saw him. One question, though ... what's under that bikini? Maybe this critic could have a private showing?

Lady Amazon stood out in my mind because of the material she chose to mime; that of the Divine Miss M., my all-time, Number 1 Fave! Girl, you *WORK!* You had the audience totally coming unglued. Your comic rendition of Bette was superb. It's evident you must like her a lot and watch her a lot, too, because you had her moves down, but, you're just not her (I lose). I wish, in your rendition of "When A Man Loves A Woman" you had left out the comedy. I felt the number would have worked, possibly just for me, a little better. Over all, Girl, Go On With It!!

Rocky was also a delight to watch. Miss Woman proves that big things come in small packages. Rocky is small in size, but big on talent. The only suggestion is that you stick to fast-paced numbers where your talents are best expressed.

I am truly sorry that I had to leave at this point, but what I saw of the show was thoroughly entertaining. Rating for this show is THREE STARS.

The next show was one I had been anticipating for weeks; the Sonny & Cher Show at the Club 21 on August 20th. On the whole I was very disappointed. The only redeeming factor was Cher (Tommy Fowler). If Cher had put on a show by herself, she would have put on a totally professional show. Sonny was either very new to the stage or not very talented. He did warm up in the last number but still didn't have the words down. If he had just kept opening and closing his mouth, he would have probably gotten a lot more of the words right. Except for Cher's performance, the most fun came from the digs that the two entertainers kept throwing at each other during the dialog sequences.

The overall feeling about the show was that it started too late (almost an hour), it wasn't totally entertaining, and it was *much* too short. Rating for this show is ONE AND ONE HALF STARS.

Well, y'all, that's all the shows I knew about this month. In the future, get the word out, and I'll be there with pen in hand. Till the next issue, Bye, y'all!

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VIOLENCE AGAINST GAY MEN

As I said previously, these attacks are taking place on gay turf, and within five blocks of a gay bar. In the attack that took place within the triangle formed by Club 21, the Mercantile and the Wreck Room, there was a greater likelihood of the gays helping, or the person putting up a struggle. The worst injuries and attacks have occurred in the five block area right outside that triangle. The most brutal attacks took place in the vicinity of 18th, 19th, 20th and H and I. There have been several particularly vicious attacks that I have heard of in this area, where lone gay men were attacked by two or more assailants and were beaten severely. The assailants were apparently aware the victims were gay, and there was gay directed verbal abuse. The attacks were in the evening. If we were to have a patrol, this is a particularly important area to watch. If I have heard about several cases in this location, I imagine there have been many more. As I mentioned earlier, research shows that 66% of gays who are attacked by gay-bashers and/or sexually assaulted (i.e., victims of gay directed attacks) never tell another person, nor do they report the crime. If only 33% ever tell anyone, and since most people did not see my one-time request in Mom Guess What for reports of violence against gays, and since I don't very often go to bars, I assume there are many, many more cases than the twelve I have heard of in the past year.

People can continue to turn in the anonymous report forms, available from Anna, the bartender at the Mercantile, or by phoning or writing me at my office (820-24th Street, Sacramento 95816, 447-2282). People can continue to report to the police, and the gay press can continue to describe attackers and locations of attacks.

Midge Marino of the TYFFA self defense studio is willing to teach a self defense course for groups of gay men. There is also mace training, such as the self-defense course sponsored by RCBA and NOW held last month, and whistles, both of which may have some limitations. Perhaps the gay bars will be interested in contracting with Midge for some self defense courses, or individuals may want to form groups and contract with Midge (454-5728).

I don't feel this is a problem that we can hope to turn over to the police for resolution; my concern is that increased patrolling of these areas wouldn't be adequate, and the police might make themselves so busy with drunk drivers that they don't see the bashings and assaults. I would also guess that bashers check for police cars before they attack. We have to take care of each other, and protect our turf. I predict that, with the increased power and sense of self righteousness of the gay community, with the increase of gay people who have been victimized sharing their information, and with increased awareness of the problem, we can do the following: we will provide better support for our victims so they will

not hesitate to tell us what is happening; we will provide better protection for ourselves and others; and we will get so angry that in another ten years, we will no longer be considered "prey" but will be considered exceedingly dangerous to those who cross us or try to interfere with our turf.

* * *

The most important date in history for anyone studying the care of the insane comes on May 6, 1856. On that glorious day, in Frieberg, Moravia, Mr. Sigmund Freud was born. Freud added Psychology (the study of man's thought processes) and Psychiatry (the medical care for the mentally ill) to our vocabulary. He went on to enrich the language with now common words like Ego, Id, Phobia, Schizophrenia, Manic, and many, many more. Freud lived a rich and full life, and chose to escape the Nazi takeover of his beloved Austria in 1938 by moving to England. He would not be forced to wear the Pink Triangle, and died a free man the following year.

Another great milestone for us all came along in 1978 when the American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from the sphere of psychiatric illnesses.

Care of the psychiatric patient has improved almost daily from the time of Freud to the present ... except, of course, for the Reagan disaster in our own California. Now, the glittering capital of the Golden State has its very own society called "Gay Mental Health Professionals," and this splendid milestone occurred right here in River City.

Yes, my dears, Sacramento does have a sensational saga to sing.

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POSITIVE IMAGES FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Two one-day conferences celebrating positive images of lesbians and gay men will be held in October at Sierra School's 24th Street Theater. The conferences are being produced by Elizabeth Harrison, President of the Lesbian and Gay Health and Mental Health Professionals; and Robin Purdy and Debbie Wender, Program Directors of the Sacramento Women's Center, Inc., with the hope of encouraging unity, awareness, and pride in Sacramento's gay and lesbian community.

GAY MEN

On Saturday, October 16, 1982 the Gay Men's Conference moderated by Ed Hall, Ph.D. begins at 10:00 with a workshop on MEDICAL ISSUES facilitated by Harvey Thompson, M.D. and Sandy Pomerantz, M.D. Drs. Thompson and Pomerantz have a private practice in Internal Medicine in Sacramento and their discussion will include information on Kaposi's Sarcoma.

A GAY FATHER'S PANEL, moderated by Dan Rudd, LCSW will follow Medical Issues. The panel will explore issues of importance to gay fathers, including child custody, child rearing, and support for fathers in the community.

A lunch break will be followed by SINGLE GAY MEN, a workshop facilitated by Robert Miller, M.D., a Psychiatrist at Highland Hospital in Oakland, Ca. and GAY COUPLES, a workshop by Harvey Rosenthal, M.D. Psychiatrist in private practice in San Francisco. Both workshops will deal with lifestyle choices.

A film will be shown after the Gay Couples workshop and the day will end with a question and answer period where workshop facilitators will answer questions from conference participants.

LESBIAN FORUM

The Lesbian Forum will be held on Saturday, October 23, 1982. The conference will be moderated by Mary Lou Hyde, LCSW, and will begin with a workshop on LESBIAN COUPLES facilitated by Elizabeth Harrison M.D., Psychiatrist, and Phyllis Kaufman, LCSW. The workshop will explore relationships between women, and dependence and independence in relationships.

A THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S PANEL, moderated by Maria Hernandez, President, Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees and Rita Wedding, Counselor, Women's Stress Alternatives, will discuss issues of importance to third world lesbians.

A lunch break will be followed by CHILDREN OF GAYS, facilitated by Kristing Belnap, LCSW, who has studied children of lesbians and gay men, a film on lesbian lifestyles, and LESBIAN MOTHERS, facilitated by Terrie A. Lyons, MSW. The day will end with a question and answer period where workshop facilitators will answer questions from conference participants.

AND MORE...

Child care will be provided at both conferences by the Sacramento Men's Collective on an advance registration basis. Parents should remember to buy or bring a lunch for children and should plan to have lunch with their children.

An art sale and exhibit by local artists Remy Ceci and Cynthia Seawomyn will occur at the Lesbian Forum, and posters advertising the conference will be sold at the conference. Lioness Books and the Sacramento Men's Collective will have tables with books and T-shirts for sale and information on events in the community.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee for each conference is \$15.00 (with a \$10.00 low-income registration fee). Registration sites are Lioness Books and the Mercantile Saloon and checks can be mailed directly to the Conference Committee, Sacramento Women's Center, Inc., 2100 Capitol Avenue #2, Sacramento, Ca. 95816. A brown bag lunch, provided by Dorman's Caterers is available to conference registrants, on an advance registration basis, for \$5.00. All proceeds from the conferences will go to the Sacramento Women's Center, Inc.

OUR COMMUNITY UNITED

By Philip J. Hoskins

Those of us working with you for the creation of a community center for Sacramento's gay and lesbian community have gone as far in developing this project as we can. We are now asking for all of you who have expressed a desire for such a center to take the next step with us.

Several locations suitable to at least some of the uses you have identified for the community center are available to us. We are unable to proceed further, however, without a commitment of funding from the community. Before any rental agreements are made, we need to have assurances that the monthly costs will be met.

OCU will begin a major membership campaign this fall. On September 20, 1982, the third Leadership Conference will be held to coordinate fund raising activities by groups and individuals within the community.

In advance of Leadership III, we ask that you create your own plan for providing a part of the funds necessary on a month-to-month basis by the community center. At present, we anticipate a minimum monthly budget of \$750. Please take the time to determine how much of that minimum you can pledge to meet each month. Consider what activities you might conduct to help meet that pledge. Also consider what role you wish to play in the membership campaign this fall.

The community center is within our reach! The time has come for a firm and realistic commitment to be made by the community to financially support the center. Please take the time to consider your pledge of support and come to Leadership III with a plan to meet your commitment.

* * *

SUPER SONIC TRANSPORT (S.S.T.)

By Rafael Q. Benitez-y-Rojas

In the alphabet soup of "exotic" (?) sexual menu available to us today (i.e., Sado-Masochism, B&D Bondage & Discipline, FFA (definitely NOT Future Farmers of America), WS Water Sports, and HKWE Heaven Knows What Else!) there are many others yet to be explored.

One of these is what I like to refer to as: S.S.T. No, there are no colors available at this time, but I am quite sure, if not positive, that there are many "closet" individuals that pursue this art diligently. If you don't believe me, go to any disco any Friday and Saturday night.

The music pounding your senses, stirring within our bodies some ancient primitive rhythm, we twist and convulse to the driving beat of the drum, our body's defenses showers our skins for protection. We begin to *sweat!*

Shirts come off, some to show, and some (as me) to enjoy the heat. We dance, some of us move, faster and faster, the DJ plays a trick, and slows the sound. We slow too, some 50,000 rpms in a slow, grinding, sensual movement, and your nostrils feast on the essence of man, the man dancing with you. You begin to *smell!*

The music knocks our senses, "Dance Gypsy Dance," the strobe lights thunder across the dance floor, shirtless bodies with now millions of beads of sweat shaped as diamonds, commanding us, tantalizing us, and with a final unconscious effort, we embrace once again and we drink those brilliant diamonds, shooting lasers across the fused bodies, and we *taste!*

Yes, S.S.T., the art of *sweat, smell, and taste*. A toast to Bacchus and what he missed, maybe.

* * *

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ZIP _____

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Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ brown bag lunches (\$5.00 each)

(amount) (number) Must be ordered by 10/9/82

I will need child care for _____ child(ren).

Registration can be mailed to Conference Committee, WEST,
2100 Capitol Avenue #2, Sacramento, Ca. 95816.

Checks payable to Sacramento Women's Center

LESBIAN FORUM

Saturday

October 23, 1982
24th Street Theater

10:00 - 5:00
\$10.00 - \$15.00

Workshops:

Lesbian Couples
Third World Lesbian Panel
Children Of Gays
Lesbian Mothers
Film

Registration Form

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY

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I will need child care for

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child(ren).

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ to register _____ people for Lesbian Forum

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ brown bag lunches (\$5.00 each).

(amount) (number) Must be ordered by 10/16/82

Registration can be mailed to the Conference Committee, WEST, 2100 Capitol Ave.
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